

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-26. (Canceled)

¹
~~27.~~ (Currently Amended) A method for determining the presence ~~or absence~~ of prostate cancer in a patient, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting a biological sample obtained from the patient with at least two oligonucleotide primers in a reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction, wherein said oligonucleotide primers are specific for an expressed ~~polynucleotide~~ sequence that comprises SEQ ID NO:67; and

(b) detecting in the sample an amount of a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 67 that amplifies in the presence of the oligonucleotide primers, and thereby detecting the presence ~~or absence~~ of prostate cancer, wherein the biological sample is blood or serum.

²
~~28.~~ (Currently Amended) A method for determining the presence ~~or absence~~ of prostate cancer in a patient, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting a biological sample obtained from the patient with at least two oligonucleotide primers in a reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction, wherein said oligonucleotide primers are specific for an expressed ~~polynucleotide~~ sequence that comprises SEQ ID NO:107; and

(b) detecting in the sample an amount of a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 107 that amplifies in the presence of the oligonucleotide primers, and thereby detecting the presence ~~or absence~~ of prostate cancer.

³ ~~29.~~ (Currently Amended) A method for determining the presence ~~or absence~~ of prostate cancer in a patient, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting a biological sample obtained from the patient with at least two oligonucleotide primers in a reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction, wherein said oligonucleotide primers are specific for an expressed ~~polynucleotide~~-sequence that comprises SEQ ID NO:308; and

(b) detecting in the sample an amount of a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 308 that amplifies in the presence of the oligonucleotide primers, and thereby detecting the presence ~~or absence~~ of prostate cancer, wherein the biological sample is blood or serum.

⁴ ~~30.~~ (Currently Amended) A method for determining the presence ~~or absence~~ of prostate cancer in a patient, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting a biological sample obtained from the patient with at least two oligonucleotide primers in a reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction, wherein said oligonucleotide primers are specific for an expressed ~~polynucleotide~~-sequence that comprises SEQ ID NO:311; and

(b) detecting in the sample an amount of a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 311 that amplifies in the presence of the oligonucleotide primers, and thereby detecting the presence ~~or absence~~ of prostate cancer, wherein the biological sample is blood or serum.

31.-39. (Canceled)

⁵ ~~40.~~ (New) A method for detecting the presence of prostate cancer in a patient, comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting in a biological sample the level of expression of a mRNA encoding a prostate tumor protein, wherein the prostate tumor protein comprises an amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO: 107; and

(b) comparing the level of expression detected in the biological sample to a predetermined cut-off value, and thereby detecting the presence or absence of prostate cancer,

wherein an increase in the level of expression in the biological sample compared to a non-cancerous sample is indicative of the presence of prostate cancer.

⁶ 41. (New) The method of claim ~~40~~⁵, wherein step (a) comprises an amplification reaction.

⁷ 42. (New) The method of claim ~~41~~⁶, wherein the amplification reaction is a reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction.

⁸ 43. (New) The method of claim ~~41~~⁶, wherein the amplification reaction is a transcription-mediated amplification reaction.

⁹ 44. (New) The method of claim ~~40~~⁵, wherein the biological sample is blood, sera, urine, biopsies or prostate secretions.